

1) Describe the three major components of an American political party, and what the major tasks of a party are. Why is our political system so reliant on parties to organize public opinion? Explain.

2) Compare and contrast the two major party platforms on the following issues: abortion, the environment, health care, taxes, defense spending and education.

3) Explain the advantages and disadvantages of a two-party system compared to a multiparty system. What would the United States be like if it had a multiparty system?

4) What is the role of linkage institutions? What are the main linkage institutions in the United States? How do political parties perform a linkage function?